(b) whether any survey has been conducted in the recent past to find out the socio-economic background of the candidates who secure admission to various Engineering Colleges; if so, the result thereof ;

(c) what is the approximate number of prospective students seeking admission and whether any study has been conducted about the need/demand for Engineering graduates in the country in the near-future ;

(d) whether any study has been conducted about the exodus of Engineering graduates to foreign countries, if so, the details thereof; and what steps have been taken to contain such exodus ;

(e) whether Government would formulate a national technical education policy taking into account all spects; and

(f) if not, what other steps are being taken to streamline technical education in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c) As per information available with the AICTE there are 230 Engineering Colleges which have been approved by the AICTE as on Jan. '93.

In terms of the powers vested with the All India Council for Technical Education under the AICTE Act 1987, the process of approving Technical Institutions is a continuous process and is applicable to Private as well as Govt. Colleges. No specific study has been made on the socio-economic background of the students securing admissions. As regards the prospective students seeking admissions to engineering colleges such a study could be undertaken by the AICTE in due course. However, it is estimated that on an average the ratio of seats available and students seeking admission to engineering colleges varies between 1: 5 to 1:10 and differs from state to state.

(d) to (f) There is no definite information available about engineering graduates going to foreign countries. On a rough estimate, the average percentage of students going abroad from IITs is of the order 20%. The National Policy on Education lays adequate emphasis on the Development of Technical Education, to make it relevant, useful and result oriented so as to cater to the socio-economic and technological development of the country.

Setting up Cattle Feed Factories in Tamil Nadu

*92. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to give its clearance for setting up cattle feed factories in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) how many applications are pending with Govt. for setting up cattle feed factories in Tamil Nadu as on date ; and

(c) what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) Since Cattle Feed Industry is not under compulsory licencing, no permission from the Govt. of India is necessary.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Increase in Cotton Production

*93. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister

of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that per hectare yield of cotton in the country is very low in comparison to U.S.A., China, Pakistan and some other countries ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to enhance per hectare yield ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to FAO Production Year Book 1991 the yield of cotton (Lint) per hectare in the major producing countries of the world is as under :—

Kg/ha

Country	1989	1990	1991
World	534	558	617
Egypt	693	727	819
Sudan	481	432	508
Mexico	848	914	802
U.S.A.	688	711	735
Argentina	398	491	492
Brazil	294	348	396
China	728	807	1002
India	265	226	234
Pakistan	560	615	761
Turkey	851	953	945
USSR	796	832	804

(c) In order to increase production and productivity of cotton in the country, Government of India in implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) in 11 cotton growing States during 1993-94. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for production of breeder seeds, distribution of certified seeds, demonstrations, plant protection chemicals and equipments, spraying, farmers' training, etc. The cost of the scheme is being shared between the Government of India and the State Governments on 75:25 basis. Significant increase in yield is envisaged through the provision of irrigation and better agronomic practices. Further, to provide remunerative prices to the farmers, minimum support prices are being fixed every year for different varieties of cotton.